

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 21: Cancelled

22. (Currently Amended) An escalator or moving sidewalk, comprising:

a frame to form a supporting structure between an entry and an exit, wherein said frame is composed at least partially of a perforated plate structure having round holes or hole cut-outs at least on side surfaces of said frame, and wherein said holes or hole cut-outs are provided over a significant portion of a height of said frame, further wherein said perforated plate frame is provided with two side plates and a base plate that are fixedly connected or welded together to form an essentially U-shaped structure, and wherein said holes in said two side plates are disposed such that adjacent holes are offset from one another.

23. (Original) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 22, wherein said holes or hole cutouts are provided over approximately half of the height of said frame.

24. (Original) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 22, wherein edges of said holes or hole cut-outs are free of straight sections.

25. (Original) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 22, wherein

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said holes or hole cut-outs have a round, oval and/or ellipsoid form.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 26_22, wherein said side plates are welded to said base plate, in particular by laser welding.

28. (Currently Amended) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 26_31, wherein said side plates form an identical hole pattern and are in particular symmetrical to one another.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) An escalator or moving sidewalk ~~according to claim 26~~, comprising:

a frame to form a supporting structure between an entry and an exit, wherein said frame is composed at least partially of a perforated plate structure having round holes or hole cut-outs at least on side surfaces of said frame, further wherein said holes or hole cut-outs are provided over a significant portion of a height of said frame, further wherein said perforated plate frame is provided with two side plates and a base plate that are fixedly connected or welded together to form an essentially U-shaped structure, and wherein said base plate has a hole pattern that is symmetrical to a longitudinal centerline thereof.

31. (Currently Amended) An escalator or moving sidewalk ~~according to claim 26~~, comprising:

a frame to form a supporting structure between an entry and an exit, wherein said frame is composed at least partially of a perforated plate structure having round

holes or hole cut-outs at least on side surfaces of said frame, further wherein said holes or hole cut-outs are provided over a significant portion of a height of said frame, further wherein said perforated plate frame is provided with two side plates and a base plate that are fixedly connected or welded together to form an essentially U-shaped structure, and wherein ribs are secured, in particular via welding, to said base plate to reinforce said base plate against bending.

32. (Currently Amended) An escalator or moving sidewalk ~~according to claim 22, comprising:~~

a frame to form a supporting structure between an entry and an exit, wherein said frame is composed at least partially of a perforated plate structure having round holes or hole cut-outs at least on side surfaces of said frame, further wherein said holes or hole cut-outs are provided over a significant portion of a height of said frame, and wherein a hole pattern is produced in said perforated plate frame via laser cutting.

33. (Original) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 22, wherein end side plates and an end base plate are respectively formed at said entry and at said exit, and wherein said end side plates and said base plate are cropped in conformity with an inclination of said escalator

34. (Original) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 33, wherein middle side plates and middle base plates extend between said end side plates and said end base plate and are prefabricated in a given length of, for example, 4 or more meters.

35. (Currently Amended) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim ~~26~~30, wherein said side plates and said base plate have the same hole pattern and are

26 30, wherein said side plates and said base plate have the same hole pattern and are prefabricated in a given length of from 2 to 6m, preferably approximately 4 m, and wherein said base plate and said side plates are adapted to be joined together on site, in particular by welding.

36. (Original) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 22, wherein said perforated plate frame has a hole pattern characterized by a ratio between plate and air of less than 3:1, in particular somewhat less than 2:1.

37. (Currently Amended) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 26 22, wherein inwardly facing profiled sections are attached to said side plates, in particular by welding, and serve for receiving travel rails for rollers of escalator steps or moving sidewalk pallets.

38. (Currently Amended) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 26 22, wherein welded-on ribs are provided to reinforce those of said side plates that extend perpendicular to a step or pallet band of said escalator or moving sidewalk.

39. (Original) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 38, wherein said welded-on ribs also extend between said holes.

40. (Currently Amended) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 26 22, wherein larger ones of said holes extend over approximately 60% of a height of said side plates, wherein smaller ones of said holes extend over approximately 20% of the height of said side plates, and wherein small holes and large holes are disposed alternatingly.

41. (Currently Amended) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim 26 22, wherein said side plates and said base plate are assembled with longitudinal

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welds from plates of different thickness and/or strength, as a function of desired load-bearing strength.

42. (Currently Amended) An escalator or moving sidewalk according to claim ~~26~~22, wherein said supporting structure is provided with a transverse frame having a predetermined width and into which said base plate can be placed or to which said base plate can be ~~secured~~, secured, or wherein said supporting structure is provided with mountings for further structural components for which in particular an exact relative position between right hand and left hand sides is fixed.